



REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims under 35 USC §112, 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103. In addition, the Examiner has objected to the drawings, and more specifically FIG. 2. A copy of the amended drawing is submitted herewith. In addition, a copy of the Power of Attorney by Assignee is submitted herewith. The rejections are fully traversed below. The claims have been amended to correct minor informalities and to further clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 65-89 have been added. Claims 1-51 and 65-89 are now pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 19 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that steps appear to be missing. Applicant has amended claims 4 and 19 to include the missing steps. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 4 and 19 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Yalcinalp, U.S. Patent No. 6,507,857, ('Yalcinalp' hereinafter). This rejection is fully traversed below.

Yalcinalp describes a system in which a user issues a document request, and an XSLT processor transforms the document in accordance with a style sheet that is associated with the document. The transformed document is then sent to the user. The style sheet may specify a method of a component external to the style sheet. The XSLT processor initiates the execution of the method and may pass arguments that are defined in the style sheet. The XSLT processor then incorporates results of the executed method into the transformed document before sending it to the user.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 11, an API encapsulating the query definition is recited. Similarly, with respect to independent claim 20, since the query definition is encapsulated via an API, the same query definition may be accessed via the API by a plurality of different application programs. With respect to claim 27, an API enables applications to define a query that is to be executed using the query specification and the data source. Similarly, claims 35 and 45 each enable applications to execute a query definition via an API encapsulating the query definition.

Various embodiments of the invention as recited in claims 1 and 11, for example, are directed to a technique for encapsulating a query definition that includes a query specification (i.e., query text and parameters) and a results transform. Various users can be provided with

of copy of the query definition. A user can request execution of their copy of the query definition. During execution, the user may be requested to specify values for the parameters. The query text along with the values for the parameters are used to query the data source identified by a data source identifier. The parameters specify portions of the query text that can be changed by a user before the query is executed. The results of the query are then transformed based on the transform of the query definition. Applicants' technique thus provides a way for queries to be encapsulated so that query text, parameters, and a transform (and optionally a data source) can all be described in a data structure (e.g., file) that can be provided to users. Yalcinalp fails to disclose or suggest such an invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 11, 20, 27, 35, and 45 are patentable over the cited art.

The dependent claims depend from one of the independent claims and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. However, the dependent claims recite additional limitations that further distinguish them from the cited references. The additional limitations recited in the independent claims or the dependent claims are not further discussed as the above discussed limitations are clearly sufficient to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims under USC §102.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 18, and 19 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yalcinalp in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,856), 'Chen' hereinafter. This rejection is fully traversed below.

With respect to independent claim 18, the canonical format is represented by a table. It is important to note that a data element in a column of the table may include a value or another table (table element with row elements and data elements).

Figure 8 of Chen simply shows a table with two columns and ten rows. Each intersection of Chen's row and column, however, only contain a single value. Chen fails to disclose or suggest a table, wherein a data element in a column of the table may include a value or another table (table element with row elements and data elements). Moreover, neither of the cited references, separately or in combination, discloses or suggests using such

a table to represent an XML data type definition. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the cited references fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18 and 19 are patentable over the cited references.

With respect to claims 4 and 19, these claims recite a data structure that conforms with an XML data type definition. An XML data type definition defines a very precise syntax for the claimed data structure. Neither of the cited references, separately or in combination, discloses or suggests such a data structure. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4 and 19 are patentable over the cited references.

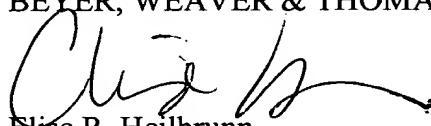
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, further clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. The dependent claims depend from one of the independent claims and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. However, the dependent claims recite additional limitations that further distinguish them from the cited references. The additional limitations recited in the independent claims or the dependent claims are not further discussed, as the above discussed limitations are clearly sufficient to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §103(a).

SUMMARY

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. ACTUP009).

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER, WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elise R. Heilbrunn', written over the printed name.

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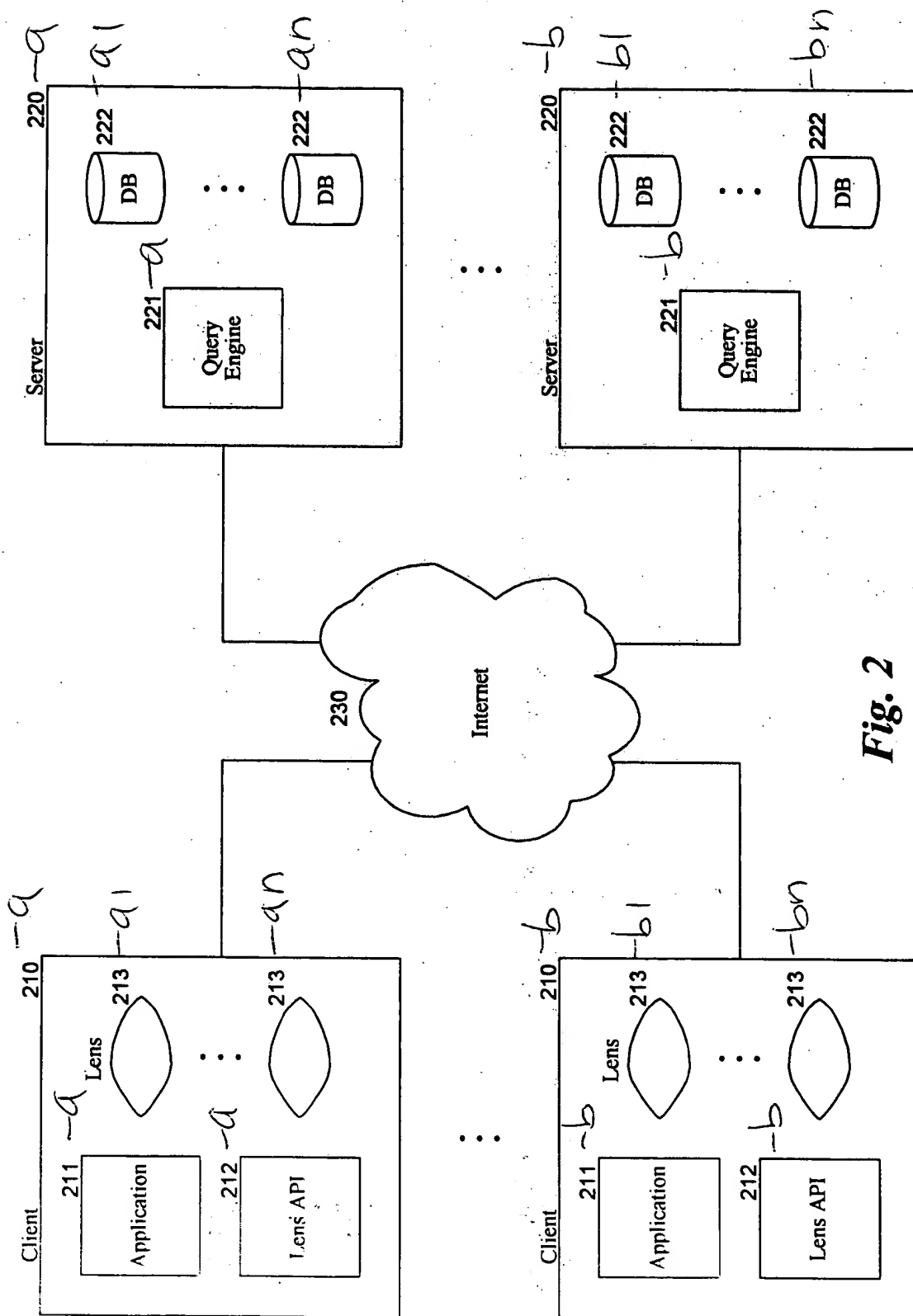


Fig. 2